GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3193
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
ADULTERATION OF FERTILIZERS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is seriously considering a proposal to bring a substantive legislation providing for punitive action against those indulging in adulteration of fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be introduced in the Parliament? A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c) In order to ensure availability and supply of right quality of fertilisers to the farmers, the Central Government under powers conferred by Essential Commodities Act,1955 had already enacted an order, called Fertiliser (Control) Order in the year 1957. This order was revised and an updated order was issued in September, 1985, now called Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985. Besides regulating the prices of fertilisers, the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 prohibits the manufacture/sale of fertilisers which do not conform to the standards and specification prescribed in it. Any person violating these mandatory provisions and found indulging in trading in non-standard/spurious fertiliser, is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order,1985/Essential Commodities Act 1955.The State/UTs Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders who may indulge in any kind of malpractices in the manufacture/sale of fertilizers. The provisions of the Fertilizer

(Control) Order,1985 are periodically reviewed and need based amendments are made. In case of pesticides also, the sale/supply of adulterated/spurious pesticides is regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968. Whenever pesticides are found sub-standard, prosecution is launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/suppliers of sub-standard pesticides. In order to make the Insecticides Act more effective and stringent, amendments in the Act are under consideration.